

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-21 are pending in this application, with claims 3, 6, and 16-18 being withdrawn. Claims 1, 2 and 19 are sought to be amended without prejudice thereto or disclaimer thereof any subject matter contained therein. Support for these amendments can be found in the originally filed claims and throughout the specification. Applicants have not raised any issue of new matter, and respectfully request entry of these amendments.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-5 and 7-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-5 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Office Action, page 3. Solely to expedite prosecution and not in acquiescence to the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 and it is now believed that this rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Rejection of Claim 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for allegedly being anticipated by WO01/77384. Office Action, page 7. Solely to expedite prosecution and not in acquiescence to the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 19 and it is now believed that this rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

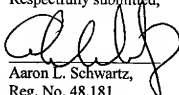
Applicants do not believe that any other fee is due in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants do owe any such fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 02-2334. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the

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Amendment and Reply

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-2334**.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and request that it be allowed. The Examiner is requested to call the Undersigned if any issues arise that can be addressed over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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